

FD-36 (Rev. 2-14-74)

F B I

Date: 3/16/76

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CODE
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Via CABLE _____
IMMEDIATE (O)
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TO: DIRECTOR (109-12-201) NR. 057-016

FROM: LEGAT BUENOS AIRES (109-2)

3/8/85
Classified by 1678 RFP/AHR
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FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS, ARGENTINA; IS - ARGENTINA.

ON MARCH 16, 1976, RAYMOND MOLINA, A U. S. CITIZEN, WHO TOOK PART IN THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION IN CUBA, PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA: ~~(S)~~ (U)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

MOLINA HAD PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED INFORMATION REGARDING AN INTERVIEW WITH ARGENTINE ARMY GENERAL CARLOS ALBERTO DALLA TEA, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY ESTADO MAYOR (HIGH COMMAND), WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MARCH 14, 1976, IN BUENOS AIRES AT THE HOME OF THE SON OF JORGE ANTONIO. ~~(S)~~ (U)

DURING THE MARCH 14, 1976, INTERVIEW, GENERAL DALLA TEA DISCLOSED PLANS OF THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES TO STAGE A COUP D'ETAT DURING THE PERIOD MARCH 17, 1976, AND MARCH 18, 1976, IN ORDER TO OVERTHROW THE INCUMBENT GOVERNMENT. DURING THE MARCH 14, 1976, INTERVIEW, MOLINA EMPHASIZED THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF A WELL PREPARED PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE U. S. TO COUNTER CERTAIN UNFAVORABLE REACTION TO A MILITARY COUP D'ETAT AGAINST A CONSTITUTIONALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT. DURING THE MARCH 14, 1976, INTERVIEW, GENERAL ~~(S)~~ (U)

END PAGE ONE

RWS:jn (1)

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Approved: _____
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1547

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Date:

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PAGE TWO

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BUE 109-2

DALLA TEA MADE IT EVIDENT THAT THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES HAD GIVEN VIRTUALLY NO CONSIDERATION TO THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT OF THEIR PLANNED COUP D'ETAT. ~~(S)~~ (U) ↑

AT 12:30 A.M., MARCH 16, 1976, JORGE ANTONIO'S SON, AT WHOSE RESIDENCE THE MARCH 14, 1976, INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL DALLA TEA WAS CONDUCTED, VISITED MOLINA AT THE SHERATON HOTEL IN BUENOS AIRES. JORGE ANTONIO'S SON CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN SENT BY GENERAL DALLA TEA, AFTER THE LATTER HAD PROVIDED MOLINA'S COMMENTS CONCERNING THE NEED FOR A WELL PLANNED PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM TO ARGENTINE ARMY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF GENERAL/^{JORGE}RAFAEL VIDELA.

GENERAL DALLA TEA ADVISED MOLINA THROUGH JORGE ANTONIO'S SON, THAT GENERAL VIDELA INSTRUCTED HIM TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH ~~RETIRED U. S. ARMY~~ ^{MAJOR DANIEL O. GRAHAM,} GENERAL, [↑] WHO WAS, A FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, AND WHO ALSO HELD AN IMPORTANT POSITION IN THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED MOLINA TO ARGENTINA ON MARCH 12, 1976, BUT HAD SUBSEQUENTLY DEPARTED. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RELAYED TO MOLINA BY GENERAL DALLA TEA THROUGH JORGE ANTONIO'S SON, GENERAL VIDELA DESIRES THAT GENERAL DALLA TEA CONTACT ~~THIS RETIRED U. S. ARMY GENERAL,~~ ^{GRAHAM,} IF NECESSARY IN A THIRD COUNTRY, IN ORDER TO EXPLORE IN DETAIL THE GENERAL'S ~~(S)~~ (U) ↓

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PAGE THREE

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BUE 109-2

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT OF THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES PROJECTED COUP D'ETAT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. MOLINA WAS ADVISED BY JORGE ANTONIO'S SON THAT GENERAL DALLA TEA WOULD APPRECIATE MEETING WITH ~~THE RETIRED~~ ^{GRAHAM} U.S. ARMY GENERAL ON MARCH 17 OR MARCH 18, 1976. JORGE ANTONIO'S SON INDICATED TO MOLINA THAT FROM COMMENTS MADE BY GENERAL DALLA TEA, IT APPEARED THAT THE TIME FRAME OF THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES COUP D'ETAT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CHANGED FROM MARCH 17-18, 1976, UNTIL THE FOLLOWING WEEK. (S) (U) ↑

MOLINA INTENDS TO CONTACT ~~THE RETIRED U.S. ARMY GENERAL~~ ^{GENERAL GRAHAM} IN WASHINGTON, D. C., TO RELAY GENERAL VIDELA'S ORDERS THAT GENERAL DALLA TEA ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH HIM. (S) (U)

~~CLASSIFIED BY 5931 XGDS 2 INDEFINITE.~~

ADMINISTRATIVE - ^{REMYCAB 3/15/76.} COORDINATED LOCALLY. [MOLINA WAS CONTACTED AT THE REQUEST OF AMBASSADOR HILL. ~~THE RETIRED U.S. ARMY GENERAL REFERRED TO ABOVE IS MAJOR GENERAL DANIEL O. GRAHAM.~~ (S) (U)]
END.

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

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5-14-01
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DECLASSIFY ON: ~~EX-116~~
Argentina Project
3/18/76

THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, a. i.

ROBERT W. SCHERRER, LEGAL ATTACHE

COUP PREPARATIONS

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.~~

On 3/18/76, a confidential source, who is a ranking official of the Argentine Army Intelligence Service (SIE), provided the following information: ~~(S)~~ (U)

Information received by SIE from the highest levels of the Argentine Army indicate that the Argentine Military will stage a coup d'etat against the incumbent Peronist government on Saturday, 3/20/76, or possibly Sunday, 3/21/76. ~~(S)~~ (U)

The Senior Argentine Military Attache in each Embassy throughout the world has been instructed to bypass the respective Ambassador in each country and present himself to the host government, notifying that government that the incumbent Peron Government will be replaced by a military government. This notification to the Senior Argentine Military Attaches in the various Embassies throughout the world will be timed so that the Senior Military Attache will have at least twelve hours advance notice of the actual time of the military coup d'etat. ~~(S)~~ (U)

According to a recent report passed from the Argentine Army High Command, ten countries have already informally advised Argentine Military Attaches in those countries that immediate recognition would be provided to an Argentine military government. ~~(S)~~ (U)

The future Argentine military incumbents of all important positions in the government have already been decided. For example, General DALLA TEA of the Argentine Army High Command is slated to become the Secretary to the Argentine Presidency. ~~(S)~~ (U)

3 m copy made for Ambassador's Briefing Book

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Exempt from General Declassification Schedule of Executive Order 11652
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- (1 - 109-2)
- (1 - 80-205) RWS:jn (8)

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COUP PREPARATIONS

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The SIE has been receiving disturbing reports that junior military officers intend to take matters into their own hands prior to the coup d'etat, with specific targetting against labor union leaders whom they consider to be leftists or especially corrupt. The SIE is closely following this matter in an effort to take preventive action against these younger officers. ~~(S)~~ (U)

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